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2019-03-27

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Xavier University (Cincinnati, Ohio), "Xavier University Newswire" (2019). *All Xavier Student Newspapers*. 3085.

https://www.exhibit.xavier.edu/student_newspaper/3085

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Xavier welcomes new police chief

Robert Warfel joins XUPD after working as a trial attorney and an FBI agent

BY ALEX BUDZYNSKI
Staff Writer

This past week, Xavier welcomed its newest member to campus: Robert Warfel, who officially assumed his position as the Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police.

Although Warfel was named the new head of the Xavier University Police Department (XUPD) in early February, the government shutdown meant that he was unable to leave his previous job with the FBI until now. He replaces Daniel Hect, who left the university at the beginning of the academic year.

Warfel comes to campus after working as an attorney and FBI agent, holding a B.A. from Butler University and a law degree from Ohio Northern University College of Law. He passed the Ohio bar exam upon graduating, and while working as a trial attorney, an opportunity arose to work for the FBI. He accepted the position and left for the FBI Training Academy in Quantico, Va., subsequently reporting to the Chicago field office in December 1997.

For the past 21 years, he has worked as a Special Agent and Supervisory Special Agent for the FBI, with experience in crisis management, critical incident response and special event security, according to Vice President of Risk Management Jeff Coleman.

"I am originally from Cin-

cinnati, so I have always been interested in trying to come back here," Warfel said. "My wife is also from here, and as I was getting close to the end of my FBI career, I was looking at what options and opportunities might be available in the public and private sectors."

In this new phase of his life, Warfel knew that he was interested in working in a school setting. He described the opportunity to work on college campuses as exciting, with "a dynamic community" and "constant changeover as new classes come in."

"You never stop learning, and for me, each opportunity or endeavor I have undertaken has allowed that opportunity," he said. "(It's) a perfect fit."

As the new Chief of Police unpacks boxes and settles into his new role, he said that he is spending a lot of time "working directly with patrol officers, the sergeants and the lieutenants that have been here operating the department." He is listening to what these veteran staff members have to say to "learn their perspectives on some of the challenges they face and some of the things that are going well."

"My goal is to figure out how we can meet the needs of the community we serve as well as give our department the best resources to make that happen," Warfel said.

He is currently working with the Safety Committee on campus as well as the university board to determine his



Photo courtesy of Xavier University Police Department

Cincinnati native Robert Warfel was named the new police chief in early February but, because of complications resulting from the government shutdown, was unable to leave his position with the FBI until last week.

first steps in getting to know the community that he will serve. As such, he expects his agenda to be very hectic in the coming weeks.

One particular reason he is getting to know the community, especially the other XUPD officers, is so that he can have a better sense for the direction of the anticipated Assistant Chief of Police position. This new role on campus will focus on operations involving community outreach and personnel matters such as officer training, and it will be one of Warfel's first major actions as Chief of Police.

According to Warfel, the position was posted and will

close on March 27. Right now, they are conducting an internal search for candidates before opening the position up to applicants outside of current members of XUPD.

Beyond these preliminary actions, Warfel said he anticipates being at Xavier long-term and added his overall goal is "being able to provide a safe environment for our Xavier students, faculty and staff in order to impact the community and give the students who are graduating the opportunity to take their Xavier experience and put it out into the world."

Additionally, Warfel said he expects the job to be "a learn-

ing curve for me that will take some time" but is nonetheless enthusiastic to begin.

"This is a position that I sought, and I am excited to be a part of the Xavier community," he said.

Warfel concluded by comparing his work with XUPD to being a parent. A father himself, he sees the Xavier community as part of his family.

"Like any parent, we want our kids to succeed and do well, so when I look at the environment that is at Xavier, I think that is what we as officers in this department also see. This is an extension of family," he said.

"You never stop learning, and for me, each opportunity or endeavor I have undertaken has allowed that opportunity... (Xavier) is a perfect fit."

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Check out what your seat in the caf says about your character, per Heather Gast.



Graham tells all in SGA meeting

BY DEVON BAIRD
Staff Writer

After a three week delay, Father Michael Graham, president, delivered his Report of the Administration during Monday's Student Government Association (SGA) meeting.

Graham was asked questions centering on four topics: the Health United Building (HUB), student housing, Carabello Coffee and campus safety.

The HUB

Although there have been setbacks in constructing the new recreation and education center, Graham reported that some of the lost time has been made up. As of now, the HUB will be opened in two separate "stages."

The recreational portion of the building is scheduled to open in November 2019. However, classes won't be held there until the spring semester of 2020. In good news, the \$3 million contingency budget has remained intact and will be used for an additional multipurpose basketball court.

Senators asked about the possibility of including a pharmacy in the HUB, but there is currently no plan for adding one. Instead, there are plans to move the dispensary currently in McGrath into the HUB. The services would be much less extensive than a



Photo courtesy of Student Government Association

Father Michael Graham, president, presented at the Student Government Association meeting on Monday. Senators asked him questions pertaining to the HUB, housing, safety and the owner of Carabello Coffee.

traditional pharmacy.

Housing

A new residence hall is still in the works. Graham confirmed that the building would be built between Buenger Hall and Kuhlman Hall, across from Brockman Hall.

The university is currently working with a construction company from Boston. The university is in the process of gathering feedback from students and staff to try to determine a long-term housing strategy.

The new dorm could be completed by 2021, though dates are not final.

University Station has agreed to develop a four-story apartment complex for off-campus housing. It's planned to be opened in August 2020.

Carabello Coffee

A major concern in the current Senate is the owner of Carabello Coffee, Justin Carabello, and his alleged association with conversion therapy, a pseudoscience that claims to "cure" homosexuality.

Carabello worked with an organization that focused on providing counseling for men who struggled with porn overuse until 2008 when he

began Carabello Coffee.

The organization also offered counseling to "cure" homosexuality.

His current relationship with the treatment center is unclear and is being investigated by the university and the *NewsWire*.

Presently, there have been conversations between Proud XU, the Center of Diversity and Inclusion and the Office of Student Affairs. The next step is for Jude Kiah and Phil Chick of Auxiliary Services to meet with Justin Carabello.

Depending on Carabello's response and stance on the

issue, the university will determine the best course of action.

Senators emphasized their concerns about partnering with someone who could be homophobic since this does not reflect the beliefs and values of Xavier.

Safety

Robert Warfel, the new chief of the Xavier University Police Department, has begun working part-time around campus.

Since he is currently finishing up at the FBI, he's been working odd hours on campus, which has allowed him to observe both the campus' day and night atmosphere. He will start his full-time position in a couple of weeks.

There has also been talk of the university partnering with POM, a security device that fits in the palm of your hand.

POM allows students to request a fake call to get out of an uncomfortable situation, request help from XUPD and much more. This discussion is still premature.

Xavier is looking to Creighton University as an example. Creighton has used this device to enhance safety on their campus.

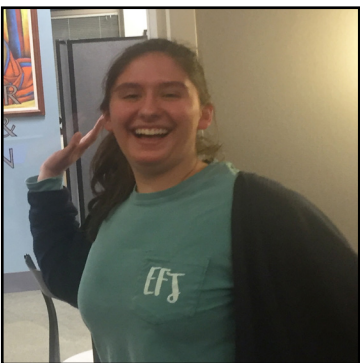
Xavier will be adding at least one more emergency phone in the Village and more lighting in the parking lot in the near future.

Photo-op: When does shorts weather begin?

BY AIDAN CALLAHAN
Staff Writer

As warmer weather nears, the campus community needs to know: when is it OK to wear shorts?

Students' answers ranged from the physical to the philosophical. We hope all temperature-related answers were referring to the Fahrenheit scale.



"As a native Californian it's like 55 and up... I feel like it all depends on your usual climate. However some people like to wear shorts when it's 20 degrees. I'm gonna think you're crazy, but hey, go for it. It's all a personal choice."

Clara Igou

First-year exploratory major



"I feel like shorts weather is a state of mind. Any weather can be shorts weather if you want it to be."

Mitchell Nee

First-year business undecided major



"I think around the end of March, beginning of April when it's not snowing anymore and it starts to get warmer, but it's not too warm."

Lily Walsh

Sophomore Digital Innovation, Film and Television major



"I'm from Boston... and I went to school in Vermont last year... Shorts weather to me is gonna be a few degrees below someone from, say, LA... I'm gonna give it an exact temperature here: 55 degrees and sunny."

Curt Berry

Sophomore finance major



"For me, the weather better be above 60 degrees. That's all you need to know."

Owen Faust

Junior business analytics major



"There's a lot of people who wear shorts when it's super cold. I'd say probably not when you're gonna catch hypothermia."

Matt Caldwell

Junior biophysics major



"High school me would say any weather, but now it's two days in a row when it's 60." When pressed on whether he meant Fahrenheit or Celsius, he said, "Fahrenheit for sure."

Miles Tiemeyer

Junior Philosophy, Politics and the Public major



"That's a hard question, but I'd say probably 50s would be like shorts and a long-sleeve t-shirt maybe."

Pam Dickman

Junior international business major



"My mom always said 50 degrees and up I could wear shorts out of the house, and I haven't ventured away from that belief."

Joe Thielman

Senior marketing major

Religion and queer identity collide

BY EMILIE KRACIK
Staff Writer

Senior Arrupe Leader Gabby Lisi launched the Instagram campaign Queer Faith XU in hopes of promoting awareness and community for queer folk on campus who are also people of faith on March 18.

As an Arrupe Leader, Lisi has met with other notably involved senior student leaders to reflect on their leadership and what they want their legacy to be at Xavier.

Lisi was inspired to start Queer Faith XU as her capstone legacy project during one of the Arrupe Leader meetings. “We were asked things like, ‘what would you have liked to see during your time at Xavier?’ And ‘what was missing from your experience?’” she explained.

Lisi elaborated that when she arrived at Xavier she was afraid to enter the Center for Faith and Justice (CFJ) because she didn’t know how they responded to the queer community and wondered if she would be accepted or embraced there.

After gaining courage and walking in the door, she now considers the CFJ one of her homes on campus.

Lisi determined she wanted



Senior Gabby Lisi launched the Queer Faith XU Instagram account to increase visibility of Xavier community members who identify as both religious and queer. Lisi and participants hope the campaign will reduce stigma.

Photo courtesy of Instagram

to see representation and community for queer folk on campus, and she chose to use social media.

The Instagram campaign can be found @queerfaithxu and was originally a week-long initiative featuring five posts a day, spread throughout the duration of each day.

Each post features a testimony of a Xavier student or staff who identifies as queer or is an ally and talks about

their experience with faith.

About half of the individuals chose to remain anonymous in their testimony and the other participants chose to identify themselves.

Sophomore Annie Tobler was invited to participate by Lisi and sees the campaign as a way to start important discussions on campus about people who identify as queer.

“Having that conversation happen at Xavier is important

because people don’t realize there are a lot of queer people on campus and sometimes we don’t feel the most accepted,” Tobler said.

Something important to Junior Hannah Frey, who also contributed, was that it could connect people who do not have supportive friends to find a safe space to discuss their sexuality.

“Creating a space where people can talk about that...

that was a big significance.. to create a new place to talk about it in a space that is accepting,” Frey said.

Lisi had no prior experience with launching media campaigns, and the support and response to the page blew her away.

The page currently has more than 450 followers including current students, staff, alumni and student organizations. Each post has 100-200 likes.

“Seeing the outpour(ing) of love and support for this community through the amount of followers, likes, comments and people coming up to me and those who gave testimonies throughout the day was amazing,” Lisi said.

When the campaign was supposed to end, people were still contacting Lisi to ask if they could share their story on the account.

Lisi was ecstatic to continue the campaign, posting additional testimonies. The campaign will continue for as long as people keep reaching out, according to Lisi.

Lisi sees her project as a success. Beyond attributing the positive response to the campaign to word of mouth and social media, Lisi credits people’s willingness to listen.

Community Action Day still serves up smiles

BY BRITTANY WELLS
Staff Writer

Twice a year, 300 students storm the Gallagher Student Center at 8 a.m. on a Saturday morning, awaiting the opportunity to paint walls, dig in dirt and package miscellaneous goods into cardboard boxes. If you attempted to host this event at any other school, the results may differ, but here at Xavier, Community Action Day (CAD) does just that, year after year after year.

“Although giving up a Saturday morning is not ideal, Community Action Day is worth my time because I get to meet new people and serve with my community here in Cincinnati,” sophomore CAD site leader Niki Shekaran said.

It’s more than the pizza and free t-shirt for senior Emilie Eros, who has participat-

ed since she was a first-year. She’s worked at Matthew: 25 Ministries, the Irish Heritage Center and the NEXUS garden, among other sites.

“I kept coming back to CAD each year because my sites that I went to provided me such good experiences,” Eros said.

The idea of coming back each year isn’t unique to Eros. As CAD board member Ryan Spolar recalls, there hasn’t been a single CAD he’s spent sleeping in.

“What keeps me going is that we’ve had relationships with these sites now for years and will continue to,” he said.

Senior Lauren DiFiore got her start in CAD through a club but added that the relationships and community have kept her coming back.

“Xavier coming together as one to give back to the com-

munity around us that gives us so much... is the perfect example of how Xavier students can live out Xavier’s mission of being men and women for and with others,” DiFiore said. “Also, Father B is always there, and who doesn’t want to start their morning with a prayer from Father B?”

CAD has not gone without its share of criticism, however. CAD President Miles Tiemeyer said some have expressed the view that a single morning of service only scratches the surface of deeper issues or needs.

“I think that one critique CAD often gets is that it is ‘band aid’ service, which doesn’t actually address social justice needs, but to me that’s not what CAD is about,” Tiemeyer said.

There are countless people around Cincinnati working for countless organizations trying to make the world a more just place. CAD is about making the lives of those people easier.

“If we can do some of the manual labor so that the staff can address some of the real social justice issues, then I am happy to pull weeds for three hours,” Tiemeyer said. “I think it is important to have short service opportunities on campus so that students who are too busy throughout their week to do other service have



Photo courtesy of Twitter

Students are attracted to CAD not only for the opportunity to serve their community, but also the opportunity to create relationships at the sites.

the opportunity to do service (at least) twice a year.”

Eros agreed with Tiemeyer and added that these short-term service opportunities can lead to long-term relationships.

“Short service also allows people the opportunity to learn about organizations throughout Cincinnati and hopefully form long-lasting relationships with the sites,” she said.

According to Spolar, the connections made at CAD last longer than a Saturday morning.

“CAD can help serve as a gateway for new students to dip their toes in the water,” Spolar said. “Often times they

are serving alongside site leaders and students with plenty of other CFJ-related experience that can be a connector. For example, maybe they enjoyed their time at CAD and want to join X-Change and then possibly (Dorothy Day Immersion programs).”

As a whole, Tiemeyer said, this morning of service is just that — a single morning — but it can help exponentially.

“Our goal isn’t to create social change on one Saturday afternoon,” Tiemeyer said, “but if we can make the lives of those who do work day in and day out for justice a little bit easier, then we are doing what I think CAD is designed for.”



Photo courtesy of Facebook

Community Action Day is a treasured semesterly event where students are sent in teams to volunteer at service sites around the community.

Second Boeing 737 MAX 8 crashes

Campus expresses concerns about flying while the FAA grounds the aircraft



Photo Courtesy of Flickr user Alan Wilson

Boeing has been forced by the Federal Aviation Administration to ground its 737 MAX 8 aircraft. Two of these planes have crashed in five months. The most recent occurred earlier this month, when an Ethiopian Airlines Flight crashed six minutes after takeoff, killing all 157 people on board.

BY SIERRA ROSS
Staff Writer

Two Boeing airplane crashes within the last five months have left Xavier students hesitant to fly. “I fly four to six times per year,” sophomore communications and public relations double major Maureen Murray said. “This makes me hesitant to fly, but it probably won’t stop me.” Murray expressed concern on flight safety: “I think this shows that mechanical aspects

of the plane aren’t being evaluated as well as they should.” She thought that this could be a big problem for “bigger and international flights.” First-year Digital Innovation Film and Television major Olivia Campbell also expressed concerns for flying. “Every time I want to go home, I have to fly,” she said. “It scares me because this is the way I travel most of the time...with all of the safety checks they weren’t able to catch the problems, so what’s

stopping something else from happening?” Earlier this month, Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302 crashed. The plane went down six minutes after takeoff, landing near the town of Bishoftu, Ethiopia. All 157 passengers and crew members were killed. The crash came five months after crash of the Indonesian Lion Air Jet Flight 610 in October. All 189 passengers on board that flight perished. Reportedly, the same plane mal-

functioned the day before the crash, but an unnamed off-duty pilot was able to land the plane safely. Both jets were identified as Boeing 737 MAX 8’s. Black box recordings have shown similar circumstances surrounding the crashes, and investigations have been launched. Erratic flight paths were observed in the minutes before each plane crashed. It is suspected that a faulty angle-of-attack sensor caused

the Lion to nose-dive 26 times. Pilots attempted to pull the nose up for 10 minutes before the crash. A similar problem was identified in the March crash. An anti-stall system was believed to have led to the fatal crash. “To the best of our knowledge, the maneuvering characteristics augmentation system was on,” Tewolde Gebremariam, Group CEO of Ethiopian Airlines, said. Ethiopian Airlines also dismissed reports that pilots involved with the crash were inadequately trained. “They had trained all appropriate simulators,” the airline said in a statement. After the release of new information, it has been found that both planes lacked two crucial pieces of safety upgrades that could have warned the pilots of issues contributing to the crashes. Neither, however, were mandated by the Federal Aviation Administration. Boeing is likely to face heavy costs following the events. It will need to update flight control software on the MAX8’s and compensate airlines who can no longer use them. The 737 MAX 8’s have been grounded internationally, and many orders for that specific type of jet have already been cancelled.

The week in review: no police notes edition

45 rattlesnakes, an organized mouse, 1600 lb steer, fridge beer, many wizards and a cheese wall

- No fewer than 45 rattlesnakes were removed from underneath a home in Texas. The snakes hide under houses during the winter and start to emerge as temperatures rise (March 20).
- A California man set up a series of naked mannequins to deter a nosy neighbor. The man said the stunt was in response to the neighbor’s alleged complaint to the city about plans to build a fence around his yard (March 21).
- A man in Texas decided to test Petco’s “all leashed pets are welcome” policy by bringing in his 1,600-pound steer. Store employees were surprised but did indeed welcome the leashed animal (March 21).
- A 104-year-old woman

- checked off one more item on her bucket list when she was arrested by the police. Per her request, police handcuffed her and transported her back to the station (March 21).
- Two men discovered a fridge full of beer while cleaning up after flooding in Minnesota. The fridge contained Bud Light and Busch Light (March 22).
- A Florida distillery is sending a giant mixing truck on a cocktail tour. The truck features a 2,400-gallon mixer that resembles a cross between a concrete mixer and a martini shaker (March 22).



Photo courtesy of Facebook

A Texas man decided to test Petco’s leash policy with a huge steer.



Photo courtesy skynews.com

This little mouse likes to organize a shed for 90 minutes each night.

- Passengers on a London flight to Germany got quite the surprise when their plane landed in Scotland. An apparent mix-up in the flight plan caused the mistake, and the plane later arrived at its proper destination (March 25).
- A Welsh mother now holds the Guinness World Record for the largest collection of Wizarding World memorabilia. She owns 3,686 different items (March 25).
- An artist announced his plans to construct a quarter-mile-long cheese wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. The wall will require 9,000 blocks of Cotija, a hard Mexican cheese (March 25).
- Seagull imitators from across Europe gathered in Belgium to squawk it out at the European Gull Screeching Championships. Competitors at-
- tempted their best gull calls in hopes of winning a basket of Belgian beers (March 26).
- A Hawaiian man will not be allowed to consume Pepsi, his favorite soft drink, for the next four years as part of his probation for a car theft conviction. He had stolen the car to purchase soda (March 26).

Students share their reactions to the college admissions scandal

BY ALEX BUDZYNSKI
Staff Writer

During spring break, the U.S. Attorney in Massachusetts charged 50 affluent individuals with fraud and bribery of admissions personnel at elite universities including Yale, Stanford and the University of Southern California.

The students involved were allegedly granted admission to universities through multiple fraudulent methods.

Parents allegedly paid between \$200,000 and up to \$6.5 million to a college coach, who then arranged for a third party to take admissions tests such as the ACT or SAT or for coaches at various universities to recruit the individuals as student-athletes.

A few weeks removed from the announcement, Xavier students offered their reactions to the latest college scandal to rock the United States.



“I think it is a shame that these parents cheated the whole system and as a result there are kids who do not even want to be in school who are paying to get their degree. I especially feel bad for all the kids who should have gone to college and want to go to college, but now cannot. In reality, I am mad that it has happened.”

Liz Apolliono
First-year theater major



“I feel like it’s completely unfair because the vast majority of people have to earn their way into their schools. Yes, parents should be their children’s biggest cheerleaders, but this is taking it to an extreme. Also, I feel that since they’re White, the punishment will be significantly less than the punishment for a person of color who did the same thing.”

Maddie Montgomery
First-year nursing major



“I’m not surprised. It’s finally being talked about, but I feel like everyone secretly knows that wealthier people have an edge when getting into college. I’m more surprised that it’s finally being talked about than it actually happening.”

Jasmine Williams
First-year exploratory major



“I think the scandal is pretty messed up and shines light on an issue that has been going on for a long time. It also sucks for the people who were not given opportunities because of certain people paying their way through.”

Sam Aberle
Junior political science major



“The scandal takes away the places in colleges for students who actually deserve them, but it’s also not surprising. And that’s the tea.”

Jess Lake
First-year business undecided major

Attorney General releases summary of Mueller report

BY ELLEN SIEFKE
Editor-in-Chief

The release of Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s report to Attorney General Bill Barr may have concluded a 22-month probe, but the debate is far from over. Yesterday, the House Judiciary Committee unanimously approved legislation demanding the Department of Justice release details regarding the obstruction of justice investigation of President Donald Trump, indicating that questions still abound.

Mueller’s report detailed the results of his investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election. Barr received the report on Friday and then released a summary of it on Sunday.

Barr’s report stated that the investigation “did not find that the Trump campaign or anyone associated with it conspired or coordinated with Russia in its efforts to influence the 2016 U.S. presidential election.”

Barr’s report also summarized the special counsel’s investigation into obstruction of justice concerns surrounding Trump. Here, Mueller did not come to a definite conclusion, instead

outlining cases for and against bringing charges.

Barr stated in the report that the evidence presented “is not sufficient to establish that the President committed an obstruction-of-justice offense.” That said, Barr did note that while Mueller’s report did not conclude that Trump committed a crime, it didn’t exonerate him, either.

Trump and his supporters hailed the report as a victory, saying it brought an end to what he had repeatedly deemed a witch hunt.

“The Mueller report was great,” he said to reporters on Tuesday. “It could not have been better. It said no obstruction, no collusion. It could not have been better.”

Democrats, particularly those who had claimed that Trump had conspired with the Kremlin, faced heavy criticism.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi noted that the president was not fully exonerated by the report and joined six other committee chairs in calling for its full release.

In the Senate, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell blocked an effort to pass a measure calling for the release of the report.

New Zealand bans Christchurch manifesto

BY GILLEN FAENZA
Staff Writer

New Zealand has announced a ban of the 74-page manifesto written by the Christchurch shooting suspect. The ban would mean anyone caught with the document in their possession could face up to 10 years in prison and anyone selling it could face up to 14 years in prison.

The issue has sparked a debate about free speech in New Zealand. At the same time, local media organizations have debated over whether or not to release the name of the Australian man charged in the shooting.

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said after the shooting, “One thing I can assure you — you won’t hear me speak his name.”

The suspect allegedly attacked two mosques in Christchurch, killing 50 and injuring at least 50 more. The suspect also livestreamed the attacks on Facebook.

The original video was seen fewer than 200 times during the livestream and about 4,000 times before Facebook removed it. In response to the attack Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced plans to shift Facebook’s focus away

from a public newsfeed and toward more personal, encrypted communication.

New Zealand Governor General Patsy Reddy also signed an order that reclassifies specific semi-automatic weapons as “military-style.”

Arden announced last week in an executive regulation that the country will stop the sale, possession and licensing of semi-automatic weapons.

This has been followed by legislation to sign the ban into law and institute a buy-back program for any weapons already owned by New Zealand citizens.

The plan is similar to what Australia enacted in 1996 in response to a mass shooting in the country.

Those changes have been linked to fewer gun deaths in the years since.

“The United States can look to New Zealand and see a willingness to prevent another tragedy by enacting swift gun reform” sophomore history major Kate Roach said.

The full gun reform proposal will be brought in front of the New Zealand Parliament for a vote during the first week of April.



Photo courtesy of Google Maps

The Al Noor Mosque has reopened its doors since the March 15 attack.

Now back to good governance

On Sunday, Attorney General William Barr released a letter to the Congressional Judiciary Committees summarizing the conclusions from Robert Mueller's highly publicized and highly politicized investigation. The investigation lasted almost two years and began after the polarized 2016 election, and during that time Mueller's findings have been on the minds of politicians and citizens alike on both sides of the aisle.

Many on the left have stood firm in the speculation that President Trump colluded with Russia. For them, the Mueller investigation was

a necessary step that would show collusion and lead to the impeachment of President Trump. Most of the right remained committed to the President and, as he often stated, believed the investigation to be a witch hunt stemming from "corrupt" FBI officials, fake news and false "dossiers."

What Barr's letter tells us is that Democrats came out on the losing end of the Mueller investigation. Mueller's report revealed that Russia engaged in multiple efforts to meddle in the 2016 election, something that was revealed by other agencies and officials long before the end of this investigation. However, there was no evidence of collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia, per Barr's report.

This is a blow to the Democrat's stance, considering that many prominent members and potential presidential candidates have stood by a belief in President Trump's collusion. Many believed that former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton lost because President Trump didn't play fair — an accusation that fell on many deaf ears on the

right and a position that has now been rendered demonstrably false.

The president may not be completely out of the woods though. Mueller found that there exists no compelling evidence to show that President Trump took part in obstructing justice, but at the same time he is also not exonerated. This leaves many still questioning whether the president broke the law. The Department of Justice will most likely not pursue any further investigation into these matters, but there is still a lot about the president that is going on. There are many investigations and lawsuits regarding the president's organizations and actions in the past. Some of these may give way to indictments, but none of them will lead to impeachment.

Congress will continue investigations into the president, but what will they find? Mueller's investigation was supposed to be the nail in the coffin for the Trump presidency, but Democrats are now conceding that the investigation is a win for the president. Some have vowed to increase

the intensity of their investigations and are calling for the entirety of the Mueller report to be made public. I believe the report should go public to the fullest extent possible, but it will only reiterate what Barr has already told us. Increasing the pressure for Congressional investigations into a matter that has now been largely settled only plays into the president's notion of a "witch hunt." Any organization or campaign finance violation will most likely be a padded slap on the wrist, as most transgressions are addressed for high-profile people.

Ultimately, the road to impeachment is just an empty rallying call for the left that many will most likely see as a silly campaign ploy.

So, where do we go from here?

President Trump is different from previous presidents in many ways. You may like or dislike him for this, or maybe you are indifferent about the whole thing. However, he has been under constant attack.

I am not saying that Congress shouldn't carry out its duty to due diligence and ex-

ercise its balance of powers. I am not saying that the public should just turn a blind eye to the administration or the rest of government. But I think it's time that the nation turns away from polarizing people and starts focusing on the issues.

In a previous op-ed, I wrote about how we need not abandon our ambition, passion or causes but ought to step away from partisan and political hate. In this instance, I am advancing the same claim. We have reached a point where most presidents will be a polarizing person doing some polarizing thing, but should we really let something like that define our political generation?

We remember the founders along the lines of fighting for the building of a nation and the perfecting of our government, while we remember people today as Republican or Democrat. Must we stagnate ourselves in constant political turmoil, or can we go back to the difficult work of nation building with a passion for good government and the American dream?



Tyler Harmon is a first-year Private Interest and the Public Good master's student. He is a guest writer from Colerain, Ohio.

Response from the Community-Engaged Fellows

On March 6, the Newswire published an opinion piece entitled "The proper way to honor service." The following is a response from Brennan H. Kizer Ball and Casey Smith on behalf of the Xavier University Community-Engaged Fellows.

A March 6 opinion piece in the *Newswire*, "The proper way to honor service," discussed Xavier's service scholarship program, the Community-Engaged Fellowship, and how our university honors service as a whole.

As current Community-Engaged Fellows, we appreciate the support the piece expresses for our program, but feel it underrepresents the true meaning of the Fellowship and how our university values community service and

engagement.

Our program, which began at Xavier in 1989, was one of the first in the country to support students who commit to service with a tuition-based scholarship. The piece discusses a perceived disparity between the "benefits" reaped by student-athletes and students like us who participate in the Fellowship — benefits such as "notoriety, access to transportation and increased scholarship funding."

No student enters into service with a community seeking notoriety, and while we are appreciative that our program is known and supported by our classmates, faculty and staff, we hope we are "notorious" where it matters most: in the communities we serve who view us as collaborators, friends and representatives of Xavier's commitment to engaging surrounding neigh-

borhoods.

It is true that our program started as a full scholarship for a select few students, but that program changed throughout the years, providing different financial opportunities to more Fellows who came to Xavier. The recent increase in scholarship aid discussed in the piece is the first for our program in more than eight years, and we believe it represents a tremendous commitment on behalf of the university.

Unfortunately, the piece did not include actual testimonials from Fellows about what the scholarship and related increase means to them. In not doing so, it missed an opportunity to share how emotional it was for many of us to learn about this increase and share this news with our families who work so hard to ensure we can attend and thrive at

Xavier. Without sharing these voices, we felt the piece missed a chance to demonstrate how the scholarship and related increase will affect each of our lives and the communities we serve. For many of us, a Xavier education was out of reach. For others, the scholarship offered what other schools could not: a chance to commit fully to service and community building while receiving a Xavier education.

We came to Xavier pre-

pared to commit ourselves weekly and are dedicated and deeply connected to the communities we serve. The Fellowship provides a medium to live a life of solidarity defined by community collaboration. As Fellows, we would not trade our experiences for any amount. We are incredibly grateful for Xavier's support of such a historic program and for the opportunities we receive both individually and as a Fellowship community.



Photo courtesy of xavier.edu

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Mission Statement

The Xavier Newswire is committed to reporting the news as well as explaining its significance to readers. In addition, through publishing opposing viewpoints and opinions, the Newswire hopes to foster dialogue on campus among students, faculty and staff.

Advertising

All inquiries should be directed to the Business & Advertising Manager Jessica Blocker at news-wire@xavier.edu.

For Your Information

The Xavier Newswire is published weekly throughout the school year, except during vacations and final exams, by the students of Xavier University, 3800 Victory Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45207. One copy is free per person per week.

*The Newswire has made the decision to stray from the AP Style Guide when printing the words White and Black in reference to groups of people. We have decided to capitalize both.

Finding your Build-A-Bear heart

In my second year here at Xavier, I have found a wonderful group of friends. Each of these friends has many admirable and endearing traits. Some of them are a bit more sentimental, and some are a bit rough around the edges. However, there is one similarity that shows itself in flashes every so often. To best describe this similarity, I'll need to tell a story.

While at lunch one day with



Emily Price is a sophomore psychology major. She is a staff writer for the Newswire from Miamisburg, Ohio.

several of my friends, we were discussing something very nice that my friend's boyfriend did for us on Valentine's Day. He had gotten all of the girls in our friend group a singular rose. Although this friend and her boyfriend have been together for many months, there was little that I knew about him at this point. He always seemed fairly tough. Being in ROTC, he spent a lot of his time with us talking about training drills and similar topics. Given the little that I knew about him, receiving a rose from him for Valentine's Day was something that I did not expect. This unexpectedness was the chosen topic at lunch that day.

While we were all talking, my friend Olivia, who is often fairly quiet and only makes exclamations when entirely certain of their effects, quickly cheered, "He's like a Build-A-Bear!" Needless to say we

were a bit startled and quite amused. She got the hint and added, "He has a heart and you know it's in there, it's just small and hard to find!" It suddenly all made sense. Among the laughter and jokes, a new understanding about human relations emerged.

This was not only the start of a good friendship with my friend's boyfriend but also the start of an idea in the back of my mind. This idea runs a similar course as the idea of "don't judge a book by its cover." However, I prefer the imagery of a small, silky heart like the ones you kiss, whisper a message to and tuck into a freshly stuffed Build-A-Bear.

Neither Olivia nor I knew what this would turn into (I didn't even know until I started to write this piece). It was such a simple statement, merely an observation, but it made so much sense.

All Build-A-Bears have

a heart. The outside of the stuffed animal can be anything you want. It might have brown, blonde, blue or purple fur. You can dress it as a ballerina or as a fire fighter. It can even take the form of other kinds of animals like a unicorn or a popular character from a children's television show.

The one thing all the bears have in common is the heart. Each child, after their bear is stuffed to their satisfaction, is told to make a wish for their bear, kiss their bear's soon-to-be heart and slip it under their bear's fur. Although all bears have this similar heart, differences emerge in what wish is made, what kind of kiss is given and where the heart is placed.

I find this imagery particularly compelling for understanding people. Every person has a heart. However, all individuals' hearts were given

a different purpose (the kind of wish made), a different kind of support (the kiss) and made to come out at certain times or to certain people (the location).

For example, I know that my purpose is different from that of my father's purpose, and I know that my heart comes out at romantic comedies while Olivia's heart comes out more at classic television shows and movies like *M*A*S*H* or *It's A Wonderful Life*.

We don't necessarily handle situations the same way and often don't feel deeply about the same things, but everyone has some semblance of a heart inside them. So, as the classic lesson goes, do not judge someone before you take the time to get to know them. Do not judge someone before you have found the thing, person or place that brings out their Build-A-Bear heart.

The American Crusades: the cults of politics

Across the American landscape, warfare has erupted. From what was once thought to be simple friction between two vastly different Churches cohabiting within the same continent, new crusades, the American Crusades, have come roaring onto the scene.

But who are these warring factions? In this piece, I will do my best to objectively inform you of the true nature of the two rival faiths in America, the Church of the Elephant and the Temple of the Donkey.

We begin with the faith that holds the current advantage in the conflict, the Church of the Elephant. In the theology of the Church of the Elephant, there exist three primary deities: Liberty, Terminus and Capital. Liberty is the god of the divine law — the rights and freedoms that are given to each individual — and the firstborn of the American gods. Terminus, the brother of Liberty, is the god of moderation and limitation. Finally comes Capital, who is the wife of Liberty and goddess of the fertile chaos that makes up the free market.

The Church is a decentral-

ized faith, hyper-focused on individual interpretation of the will of the gods. Though there is a rough framework to their rites and theology, there can often be great varieties of interpretation. This individualization of faith often leads to sects and orders of varying radicalism and fervency cropping up in Church lands. Liberty and Capital are the most likely to have these radical sects, which demand everything from a return to birthright membership in the faith to stripping Terminus of domains that are claimed to belong to Capital.

In terms of military strength, the Church of the Elephant tends toward a focus on quality and smaller engagements. Numerous military orders, such as the Knights of Liberty and the Federal Order, distinguish themselves consistently in smaller scale victories. However, the Church of the Elephant's military forces fall into the same trap as the Carthaginian general Hannibal in that they can win but fail to understand how to use that victory.

Shifting to the opposite

side of the war, we come to the Temple of the Donkey. The Temple has worshipped a wide variety of gods throughout its history, but the most prominent at this time is the deity known as the Intersectional, followed by the goddess Equity and the rising god Socia.

First among the Temple's divine figures is the peculiar figure known as the Intersectional. Though often depicted as male, female and even gender-neutral, the Intersectional has a distinctly masculine symbolism because of its role as the divine origin of societal order rather than the feminine symbolism of fertile generation. This divine figure aides in determining the piety of individuals in society and presides over the punishment of the sinful.

Second for the Temple is the goddess Equity, rumored lost sibling of Liberty and patroness of the oppressed. Finally we arrive at Socia, a reincarnated deity, who is the lover of Equity and the red god of change.

While the Church is decentralized and individual-focused, the Temple is central-

ized and community-focused. The rise to prominence of Intersectional, Equity and Socia has actually produced a partial splinter of their faith, but the older gods hold little sway with the loudest of the faithful. These deities have actually encouraged a more diverse range of converts in recent years, resulting in a wide array of followers accepting the dogmas of the Temple.

However, it would seem that their growth has coincided with a rising moralism and tendency toward the public shaming and punishment of sinners. We are too close in time to know if this is simply coincidental or directly causal.

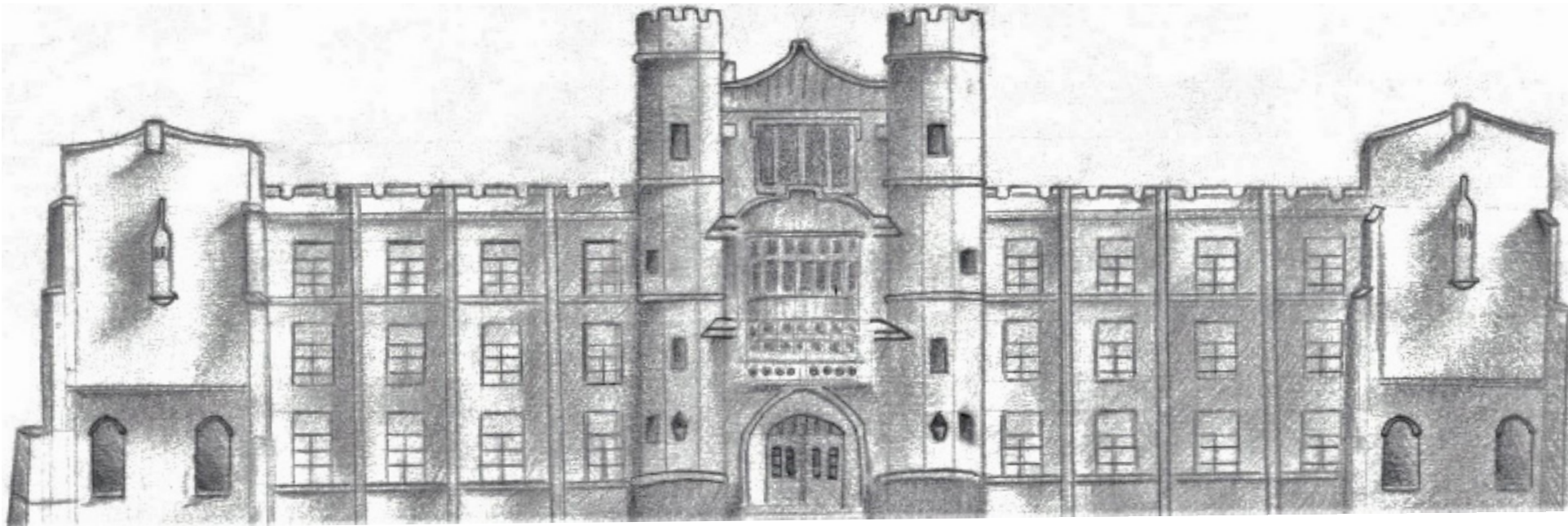
The Temple's military is much more focused on dense formations of large quantities and hammer blow strikes. Many great victories in recent memory have been won thanks to the sheer number of Temple troops and their variety of armament and tactics. It is much rarer for single military orders or units to distinguish themselves in Temple armies, and so larger formations like the Red Raider Regiment and the Amazonian Armor Corps are more well

known. However, the major downfall of the Temple forces is how often they continuously underestimate their opponents in the Church.

With that final bit of description, I am afraid that I must close my report on the American Crusades for now as I am limited by time and word count. There is much more I could cover, such as the most decorated military units or the propaganda campaigns of both faiths, but this will have to suffice for now. I hope this piece has delivered a better understanding of the conflict on our continent or, failing that, entertained you.



Colin Lang is a senior history and philosophy, politics and the public double major. He is a staff writer for the Newswire from Westlake, Ohio.



Xavier falls in the NIT, but the future shines bright

BY LUKE FELICIANO
Sports Editor

Xavier defeated in-state foe Toledo in the first round of the 2019 National Invitational Tournament (NIT) last Wednesday before falling on the road to Texas in the second round, ending the Musketeers' season.

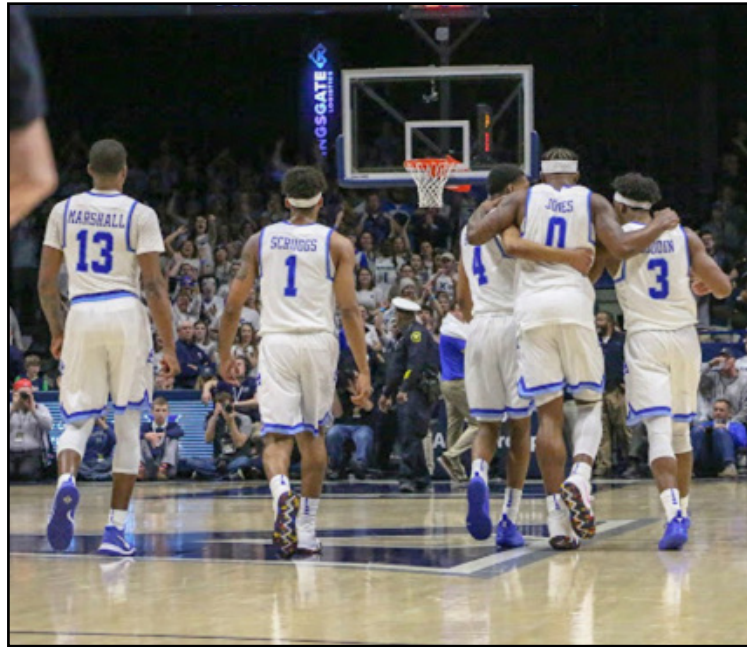
The Toledo game marked the first time since 2000 that the Musketeers made an appearance in the NIT. The win propelled Xavier to a perfect 7-0 record in NIT games played on its home court.

This year's NIT featured experimental tweaks to the standard NCAA basketball rules. The three-point line extended to 22 feet and 1.75 inches, and the paint was widened to 16 feet.

In addition, team fouls reset at the 10-minute mark of each half, eliminating the opportunity to receive bonus free throws.

Toledo utilized a zone look that, at first, forced Xavier to shoot from the outside. The Musketeers responded and had a fair amount of success inside, fighting through the clogged lane for 30 points in the paint.

"Toledo came out in a 3-2 zone, which we really haven't played all year," head coach Travis Steele said. "That threw us off in the first half, but I thought our guys re-



Newswire photo by Desmond Fischer

Xavier's season ended last Sunday against Texas in the NIT, but the future is bright as the Musketeers return four of their five top scorers.

sponded really well."

Xavier missed its first four three-point field goal attempts. However, the Musketeers and Rockets were tied at 10 points apiece at the 13:05 mark in the first half.

Graduate forward marksman Ryan Welage snapped the 11-minute scoreless slump from behind the arc by knocking down a three from the corner.

The Musketeers found themselves behind in the first half, but sophomore guard Elias Harden tied the game at 19 with a three-pointer of his own.

In fewer than 17 minutes,

sophomore forward Naji Marshall ripped down 10 rebounds. He tacked on 11 more boards for a career-high total and collected 20 points on his way to a double-double.

Xavier reinvigorated life into the crowd after junior forward Tyrique Jones swatted a shot, which led to an emphatic dunk on the other end by junior point guard Quentin Goodin.

"We knew Toledo was a great team and we didn't want to take them for granted," Goodin said. "Coming out and playing (as) hard as we can was huge for us."

In the first half, points

were hard to come by as Xavier shot 34 percent from the floor and 14 percent from long range. The Musketeers were tied with Toledo at the break, 27 all.

In particular, sophomore guard Paul Scruggs — who went 0 for 8 from the floor in the first half — had a nice turnaround in the second half, totaling 10 points on 4 of 7 shooting.

"I thought the tempo of the game, we tried to pick it up a little bit there in the second half," Steele said. "Pushing the ball, we were trying to press them as well ... I thought these guys did a great job playing a couple passing lanes, being handsy, getting open an open dunk or an open three."

A 10-0 run capped by a Marshall and-one put Xavier in front, 45-36, with 13:30 left in the game. From that point on it was all Musketeers, as they eventually built up a game-high 20-point advantage.

The win against Toledo pushed Xavier into the second round of the tournament where it faced a Jaxson Hayes-less Texas team. Hayes, a Cincinnati, was out for the season after sustaining a bone bruise on his left knee during the Big 12 Tournament.

Here are some takeaways from the road matchup with

the Longhorns.

Overtime thriller: With less than five minutes to go in the game, Xavier trailed by a two-possession deficit. Goodin's three-pointer sliced the Texas lead to one point. Later, he knocked down another triple to tie the game at 65 points. Goodin came through in the clutch again when he converted both of his free throws to tie the game and send it into overtime. However, Texas secured the lead with 16 seconds remaining, and Xavier was unable to tie or win the game.

The Four Musketeers: Despite the season-ending loss, Xavier had four double-digit scorers. Graduate forward Zach Hankins scored 13 points and grabbed nine rebounds while Jones finished with a team-high 22 points and 11 boards. Marshall made fine contributions as well, scoring 19 points and collecting eight rebounds. Goodin also had a productive showing with 14 points on 5 of 7 shooting and four assists.

A strong finish to the season: Xavier's season came to a close, but the Musketeers finished the season strong, totaling eight wins in the final 11 games of the season. Additionally, Xavier returns four of the five players who averaged double-digit points from this year for next season.

Hunnell swings for success at Xavier

BY MICHAEL RAUBER
Staff Writer

Lyndsey Hunnell did not start swinging a golf club until the age of 12. In middle school, she was choosing whether to play golf or basketball. Today, she is a veteran leader on the Xavier women's golf team.

Hunnell, a native of Roanoke, Va., began playing in golf tournaments when she was in middle school.

"My dad would get me to every tournament and would walk the course with me," she said.

Hunnell played high school golf at Lord Botetourt High School in Virginia and chose to play college golf close to home at the University of Virginia.

During her time at Virginia, she majored in media studies and redshirted her freshman season. On top of being a student-athlete, she also worked for the Virginia football program while in Charlottesville.

Throughout her golf career, Hunnell has received several accolades.

Some of her other accomplishments before her time at Xavier include winning the 2015 and 2016 Roanoke Valley Golf Hall of Fame tournaments, winning the 2015 Roanoke Valley Women's Golf Association City-Coun-



Photo courtesy of Lyndsey Hunnell

Graduate transfer Lyndsey Hunnell began her collegiate golf career at the University of Virginia but found herself at Xavier for her final season.

ty championship, winning the Roanoke Valley Women's City County Tournament in 2012 and being named Roanoke Valley Girls' Player of the Year in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013.

She was also a Virginia All-State selection in 2012 and 2013.

In 2016, Hunnell qualified for the U.S. Women's Amateur Championship.

Hunnell, a graduate student working toward a master's degree in sport administration, had one year left of eligibility.

"After I got the release from

my coach at UVA, I started looking at other schools, but Xavier was my top choice and they had gotten back to me first," Hunnell said. "So, I chose to be part of the Xavier program."

During spring break, Hunnell helped Xavier place first of 13 in the Jackrabbit Invitational at Boulder Creek Golf Club in Boulder City, Nev. Xavier also claimed fourth place of 14 in the Piza Hut Lady Thunderbird Invitational at Sunbrook Golf Course in St. George, Utah, on the same trip.

"My adjustment has been

good, but (Xavier) is definitely different from UVA. I am not in the dorms, so it wasn't so easy to meet people, but my teammates have become great friends and I live pretty close to some of them off campus," Hunnell said.

Throughout her seven tournaments this season, Hunnell has composed an average score of 74.74 per round.

Xavier will play in two more tournaments before the Big East Championships from April 19-21 at Callawassie Island Golf Club in Okatie, S.C.

In her spare time, Hunnell enjoys doing portrait photography as well as knitting for her Etsy business.

After a competitive interview process in Atlanta, Hunnell was selected to be an intern for the American Junior Golf Association, which she will begin after she completes her master's degree in May.

She is awaiting her placement location but hopes that she will be placed in the West Coast to help coordinate the junior golf tournaments there.

In the long term, Hunnell hopes to someday be an athletic director or a golf coach. She is an avid Cubs and Packers fan, and she hopes Virginia's basketball will redeem itself in this year's NCAA Tournament.

Xavier Sports

Men's Basketball

The Musketeers received a commitment from graduate transfer Jason Carter. The 6-8 forward will have two years left of eligibility. Carter averaged 16.5 points per game last season playing for Ohio University. Earlier this season, he played against Xavier at Cintas Center.

Women's Tennis

Xavier extended its lengthy winning streak to 13 matches after edging out Big East foe Marquette by a score of 4-3 last weekend. The win boosted the Musketeers to a perfect 5-0 conference record. Senior Sophia Abelson won both her singles and doubles matches against the Golden Eagles.

Track & Field

During the first meet of the outdoor season, sophomore Anna Kostarellis won the 1,500-meter run at the Blizzard Buster last Saturday. The Musketeers also captured 25 top-10 finishes throughout the day.

Xavier wins home opener series against Evansville

BY JOE CLARK
Staff Writer

Last weekend, Xavier baseball played host to Evansville at Hayden Field for its first home series of the year. The Musketeers won the first two games of the three-game series before dropping the third game to the Purple Aces. Xavier also traveled to Wright State for the first game of a home-and-home on Tuesday, walking away with a come-from-behind 9-8 win in 10 innings.

In Xavier's home opener, the Musketeers were able to erase a 7-0 deficit to storm back and win 11-8. Evansville went ahead 2-0 in the first before tacking on another four runs in the second. It went ahead 7-0 in the top of the fourth, but Xavier answered with four runs of its own in the bottom half of the fourth.

Freshman infielder Jack Housinger, who went 4-4 in the game, doubled down the left field line to score junior infielder Conor Grammes from second. This advanced graduate infielder Jake Shepski to third, leaving the Musketeers with two runners in scoring position. A sac fly from senior outfielder Ryan Fournier scored Shepski. Then, freshman Luke Franzoni followed with a two-run



Photo courtesy of goxavier.com

Junior infielder Conor Grammes blasted a two-run home run to aid in the game two victory in the series against Evansville. He started on the bump in game three and struck out 11 batters in five innings pitched.

home run to slice the Evansville lead to three.

Xavier took the lead in the bottom of the fifth, scoring another four runs in the frame. Grammes singled, then Shepski walked and Housinger singled to load the bases. Junior catcher Natale Monastras's sac fly to center scored Grammes. Later in the inning, Fournier walked, and Franzoni responded by hitting a bases-clearing double to put Xavier ahead 8-7.

The Musketeers tacked

on two insurance runs in the bottom of the seventh after junior outfielder Andrew Sexton singled home Housinger and Monastras. After Evansville scored in the top of the eighth, Xavier scored what would be the final run of the game on a Shepski sac fly. Freshman reliever Lane Flamm shut down Evansville in the ninth, recording his second save of the season.

In game two, Xavier jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the third after Grammes' two-run homer.

Evansville scored in the top of the fourth, but in the bottom half freshman infielder Kody Darcy hit a solo shot to put Xavier up 3-1. Darcy then went deep again in his next at bat in the seventh, putting Xavier up 4-1. A solo homer by Troy Bellsmith in the top of the eighth cut the Xavier lead to two at 4-2, but Franzoni's RBI double in the bottom of the eighth gave Xavier a three-run lead. Flamm went to work again, striking out the side in the ninth to secure the

Xavier win.

Despite dropping the third game of the series, Grammes threw a gem in what would end up being a losing effort. He struck out 11 in five innings, with his only blip coming in the third inning when Tanner Craig doubled home Bellsmith and then was brought home on a single by Jake Borgstrom.

Xavier got on the board in the fifth, as Grammes singled and then stole second before being brought home on a Shepski single to cut the Evansville lead to 2-1. The Purple Aces scored two runs in the seventh and four in the eighth. Trailing 8-1, Xavier picked up a run in the bottom of the eighth, as Franzoni singled home Monastras. Evansville tacked on an additional two in the ninth to take the final game of the series 10-2.

At Wright State on Tuesday, Xavier trailed 6-1 by the third inning.

However, a four-run top of the third and top of the sixth gave the Musketeers the lead. Wright State tied the game in the bottom of the sixth.

The game remained even at eight runs apiece before Grammes singled home the game-winning run in the top of the 10th inning to lift the Musketeers over the Raiders.

MLB Preview: Free agent signings rule offseason

NL East and Central appear to be the most competitive, AL East is top heavy

BY JACK DUNN
Campus News Editor

With another season of baseball upon us, it's pertinent to take a look at how each division might shape up in the 2019 season.

Bryce Harper signing his insane 13-year, \$330 million contract with the Phillies will shift the balance in their favor to win the division.

However, the Phillies will have plenty of competition from the Braves and Nationals. The Braves pulled off a surprise upset last year by winning the division and still have 2018 NL Rookie of the Year Ronald Acuna, Jr., who could be a darkhorse MVP candidate.

The Nationals still have a devastating amount of talent on both sides of the ball despite losing Harper. The Mets may even emerge as a surprise with their great pitching rotation headlined by 2018 Cy Young winner Jacob deGrom.

The only team who can truly be counted out of the division race is the Marlins, who did not do anything in the offseason to match up with the other top-tier talent in the division.

The NL Central will be arguably the most competitive division this season. Last year, four out of five teams in the division were above .500



Photo courtesy of flickr.com

Los Angeles Angels outfielder Mike Trout won't be going anywhere after inking a long-term deal that is worth \$420 million and spans 12 years.

and the only one below — the Reds — was one of the most aggressive teams in the offseason to improve on its 95-loss season.

The Brewers won out a thrilling regular season finish with the Cubs to capture the division title, eventually advancing to the NLCS.

The Cardinals decided that they did not want to be left out of the playoffs for the fourth straight year and went

out and got the best available first baseman in Paul Goldschmidt, signing him to a long-term contract extension.

Even though the Cubs sat out most of the playoffs, a healthy Kris Bryant and Yu Darvish combined with no more 43 games in 43-day stretches should help the 95-win team get even better. This division is the one to watch this season and could go in almost any direction.

The NL West will also be interesting to watch this year. The Dodgers have won the division every season since 2013, and the reigning National League champs hope that will translate to a third straight World Series berth. Despite clearing house in the outfield in a failed attempt to get Bryce Harper, their success depends on how much better their competition will get this year.

The Padres made a splash by signing Manny Machado but have a long climb to the top after 96 losses. The Diamondbacks lost their best player and will likely fall below .500 this year.

The biggest question here is whether the Rockies, a team that was only one game back last year, can leapfrog the Dodgers to prevent them from winning their seventh consecutive NL West championship.

The AL East will be top heavy again in its standings with the reigning World Champs. The Red Sox won 108 games in the regular season and will lead the charge again.

The Yankees will be close behind, and the Rays can get interesting with their unique "opener" tactics. The most interesting questions facing the AL East are when Vladimir Guerrero, Jr., will get to

the bigs and if the Orioles can crack 50 wins this season.

The Indians, despite not re-signing a lot of their core players, will most likely win the AL Central again this year. This isn't saying much though.

The rest of the division isn't very good and also remained relatively quiet in the Harper-Machado sweepstakes.

American League ball in America's heartland will see a lot of young guys piling up a lot of losses. It is entirely possible the division could be won by a sub .500 team.

The Angels made a huge splash by re-signing the best player in baseball, Mike Trout, to a 12-year, \$420 million contract. They will still have a big hill to climb to catch up to the Astros, who won 100 games last year.

Despite losing Dallas Keuchel to free agency, they will still have one of the best pitchers on the mound with veteran Justin Verlander. The Astros also inked George Springer to a big contract.

The Athletics may also surprise with a couple of their super star hitters, but the question remains to be seen if their rotation, headlined by Mike Fiers and Marco Estrada, can take the team to the postseason with an abundance of lethal hitters in the lineup.

Punctuation prevails in latest play

BY LIZ HARRIS
Guest Writer

Audience members did not know what they were settling in for as they entered the theater at Xavier this weekend to see the world premiere production of *The Oxford Comma*. They certainly were not disappointed by playwright Liba Vaynberg's stellar work. This new play focuses on the relationship between two teachers, as well as their interactions with a co-worker and a student. It explores these relationships through complex concepts in physics and grammar, which have more similarities than most would think.

The Oxford Comma is for both those who hate the English language and those who love it. It is inspired by two grammatical concepts: the subjunctive, a way of expressing wishes in romance languages, and the oxford comma. Through two interspersed timelines, the subjunctive allows the play to explore the reality of the characters as well as the romantic relationship George and Charlotte, the two teach-

ers, wish they had. But the two timelines aren't even the most complex part.

The oxford comma itself adds ambiguity to the pair's relationship. The play opens with one statement, written on a chalkboard by the pair's co-worker, Karen: "George flew to Rome with Charlotte, a friend and a lover." A question is then posed to the audience: How many people flew to Rome?

This may seem clear-cut, but the ambiguity in this one sentence is immense. Grammatically, there are two ways to punctuate this sentence and three different interpretations of it that are explored throughout the play.

If you utilize the oxford comma, the sentence reads, "George flew to Rome with Charlotte, a friend, and a lover." Here, there could be three people travelling with George: Charlotte, another person who is George's friend and another person who is George's lover. Or there could be two people: Charlotte who is George's friend and another person who is George's lover.

However, if the sentence is



Photo courtesy of Xavier Theatre

Xavier's world premiere of Liba Vaynberg's *The Oxford Comma* this past weekend detailed both the intricacies of English grammar and the various ambiguities present in defining and navigating human relationships.

taken as written, without the oxford comma, it introduces the idea that only one person is accompanying George: Charlotte, who is both George's friend and his lover. This is the gray area the play explores: Is Charlotte a friend, a lover or both?

Explanations of grammatical concepts aside, the relationship between George and Charlotte, both of whom are married, blurs the lines between friend and lover in both

timelines as the two gradually approach and teeter on the edge of having an affair.

The brilliance of this concept, as well as many other, more specific aspects of the play, were only highlighted by the fantastic work of the actors. Elliot Auch as George, Catherine Sholtis as Charlotte, Gigi Relic as Karen and Max Carlson as Nick were all extraordinary. Relic and Carlson had to play multiple roles, and Auch and Sholtis

certainly seemed to be doing the same at times because of the differences in their relationship in the two timelines. This was quite the feat for the four actors, switching back and forth between characters and motivations so frequently and suddenly, but they all executed it beautifully.

As a community, Xavier Theatre should be proud that they constructed such an amazing production to premiere Vaynberg's play.

De-clutter and de-stress your life? You Kondo it!

BY ROSE HOFSTETTER
Staff Writer

The KonMari method can be seen everywhere on Pinterest or on YouTube: "Clean Up with Me," "Organizing: Find Happiness and Joy," "Reduce Clutter, the KonMari Method." Posts like these are always paired with a professional photo of a pristine house with white marble countertops, perfectly vacuumed carpets and a trendy couch from Anthropologie.

The change from a messy collegiate racoon to a fashionably organized Persian cat seems unachievable especially when one is on a college budget. However, I have been able to implement some of these elements into my own life, and it was surprisingly easier than I thought.

The truth is that it's not only about keeping the things and objects that spark joy. It is about simplifying one's own life through self-reflection to create productivity. For the KonMari method to work, I had to evaluate each part of my day to know what would make life easier for me. Simplicity always is the answer to anything in life. Life moves only at the pace you decide is best for you, and I have found that I am my happiest when I put forth the effort to make things easier for me.

So where did I begin? Logically, I started in the morning, and I took it upon my-



Photo courtesy of Newyorker.com

Organizing guru and viral sensation Marie Kondo is known for her strategies for a decluttered, scheduled and mess-free life. Her Netflix show *Tidying up with Marie Kondo* details the ways people can get rid of unnecessary stressors by organizing household spaces and following schedules.

self to consider what I do in the mornings before I head out the door. I didn't need to hesitate about what I do first thing, even before I open my eyes — I reach for my phone to stop the alarm clock and then check social media and emails.

Right off the bat, I realized that doing this is extremely unhealthy. By reaching for my phone, I am giving my attention to something else when I should be focused on myself. I learned that unless there is an extreme emergency, notifications can wait until I can handle them.

Depending on how well

one sleeps, it takes a person anywhere from 15 minutes to one hour to fully wake up. If I don't expect the internet to work instantly in the morning, then I shouldn't expect myself to be up and ready in five minutes. Having a simple routine doesn't mean that you don't have your life together. It means that you understand yourself enough to know what works.

During the day, I am extraordinarily busy. Class after class, eating and procrastinating are not only exhausting but boring. I can get often distracted by the notifications of every assignment being on

Canvas, eliminating the need to write things down. It's time to rethink the idea that we are robots and concede that we don't have the brains or storage capacities of supercomputers, despite them being at our fingertips. If this is you, you can apply KonMari methods to this feeling of constant distraction by organizing your thoughts.

If you need to do homework, schedule it out. 30-minute nap at 2:30? Schedule it. Eat a vegetable? Schedule it. Declutter your mind by putting it to paper. This is why bullet journals and planner companies have taken off

like wildfire. You can organize your life by managing and breaking down the things that take up time, energy and importance, thus bringing you joy. When it comes to ending the day, I remember simplicity. I start with the basics: complete small tasks, get ready for bed and then stop. Look around, check the clock and see if there is something I desperately need and can do within five minutes.

If so, I handle it or take five minutes to come up with a plan. I constantly assess my needs, acknowledge them and then take care of them, thus proactively managing my

Captain Marvel's heroism is stellar

BY ALEX BUDZYNSKI
Staff Writer

Action-packed, suspenseful and empowering — *Captain Marvel* is the most recent Marvel superhero blockbuster to hit movie theaters and it has done so with a bang.

Released earlier this month, the movie follows Carol Danvers as she is caught in the center of a galactic conflict between two alien races while trying to figure out her identity and place in this universe.

Set in 1995, Danvers is joined by a young Nick Fury as she flees hostile forces while learning about her past life as a U.S. Air Force pilot. She ultimately assumes the form of an unstoppable superhero, Captain Marvel, who is on a quest to do good.

Written and directed by Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck, this film is the 21st in the collection of Marvel superhero movies known as the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) but the first with a female-led superhero. *Captain Marvel* was originally announced in October 2014 and is based on the 1971 comic by Roy Thomas.

This release also comes at the climax of the MCU, as the pager pushed by Nick Fury at the end of *Avengers: Infinity War* is now recognizable as a call to Danvers for

help in Earth's most desperate hour. Hence, this backstory to Captain Marvel provides the perfect segue into the much-anticipated and final MCU movie, *Avengers: Endgame*, in which Captain Marvel will supposedly come and save the day.

Time and time again, Marvel's superhero movies have proven to be successful and attention-grabbing, and *Captain Marvel* is no exception. After merely two and a half weeks, the film has grossed nearly \$910 million and counting, making it the highest grossing film of 2019 so far and a likely candidate for the top 50 highest grossing movies of all time. Additionally, it had a worldwide opening of \$456.7 million, the sixth most lucrative of all time.

With both praise and criticism for the movie as a whole, one common thread is repeated acclaim for Brie Larson's portrayal of Carol Danvers. As Owen Gleiberman from *Variety* writes, "Brie Larson radiates an ability that too many comic-book heroes never get the chance to show: the superpower of expression," as she "lights up a Marvel superheroine film from within." It is in part because of Larson's performance that this movie can be seen as undoubtedly feminist.

According to Chris Cody,



Photo courtesy of q107fm.ca

a sophomore entrepreneurial studies and marketing double major, "it fits with Marvel's approach to movies, bringing you back to your childhood with such recognizable characters. It is also a testament to how large the Marvel Cinematic Universe has become, as this film obviously has connections to the other Marvel movies."

He continued to list qualities such as "its presence of a female lead character" or "comical undertones" that make this movie stand out from others.

Not only does it feature a strong heroine discovering who she is, it establishes her as one of the strongest heroes in the MCU. Moreover, this film comes at the height

of a feminist movement in society and Larson has delivered an emotional interpretation able to encapsulate all of it. As Peter Travers from *Rolling Stone* magazine states, "Everything in its DNA, from representation (in front of and behind the screen) to its notions of empowerment, radiates our moment right now."

On a larger scale, the movie is generally exciting for avid Marvel followers because of its place in the long list of Marvel-generated films. Since the end of *Avengers: Infinity War*, the importance of and expectations for *Captain Marvel* cannot be understated.

It is particularly exciting to see so much of Captain

Marvel on her own before she joins arms with the other dozen superheroes who have been immortalized in the past 10 years of Marvel movies.

The strength she has displayed in this solo movie means there is an exhilarating amount of potential as to what can happen in *Avengers: Endgame*, scheduled for release on April 26.

In one word, *Captain Marvel* is powerful. With \$910 million grossed in such a short time, it tells a beautiful and captivating story through what is both directly on-screen and the greater implications off-screen.

It is certainly one movie that both Marvel and non-Marvel fans should add to their watch list.

'Cooking with Grace' is a recipe for inspiration

BY BRITTANY WELLS
Staff Writer



Photo courtesy of Lexi Suttner

Every Sunday at 6 p.m., Grace Barden's home smells like a dream. Her kitchen fills with the scents of delicious couscous, fresh apple pie or gooey chocolate cake. Her sweet personality fills every baked good with warmth, and it all happens live for more than 500 people to see on her Instagram story.

However, for Barden, it's about so much more than giving away her concoctions on Instagram: "My cooking gives people hope and love. Our first ever show was just so random...I got the inspiration because our house has so many leftovers... I decided to make homemade ramen using random objects in my fridge."

27 weeks, recipes and *Cooking with Grace* episodes later, she's still stirring up generosity just a few blocks from campus.

Barden is a senior Montessori and special education double major who took a class called Community and Advocacy. Her assignment was to give back to the Xavier community. Barden said that when she arrived on campus as a first-year — hailing all the way from Texas — she felt lonely. What she missed most

was a home cooked meal. Now, Barden is ensuring that no one goes hungry on a Sunday night.

"When I cook, I'm in my happy place, but when I give, I feel so much more love than they do," she said. "People think that if you go to Xavier that you instantly have money to pay for food, and that's not true. People that do need food on Xavier's campus are ashamed to reach out."

Barden says that anyone who needs food will get it "no matter if our giveaways have already maxed out. If there's someone who needs food, we never say no."

Barden started cooking at Xavier when she moved into a house just off campus with a fabulous kitchen. Her housemates, especially her manager, junior occupational therapy major Lexi Suttner, have supported her through it all. "I loved cooking because I loved seeing people's faces when they would try my food because it is like I am giving them a little part of my life, and I'm also inspiring them to cook," Barden said. "For me to make your day is so much bigger than for me just to give you a piece of bread."

The enthusiasm has yet to stop. With hundreds swiping

up on her Instagram stories each week hoping to taste the giveaway, Barden feels the show is a great success. "It has been successful just because of our fans... if people didn't say I inspired them or I gave them hope to try a new recipe or I helped feed them for a meal, I think we would have been done by September," she said.

Despite all the hard work, money and time sacrificed, Grace feels as though she receives when she gives. "When they express that gratitude to me, all my worries in the world, like if I missed an ingredient or if I did anything wrong in that whole entire week, that one statement, 'Grace thank you so much, you fed me, I didn't know if I was going to have enough food to get me through this week and you just gave me a meal,' it changes my life. It gives me gratitude."

Barden will stay at Xavier for her Master's, so the fun isn't over just yet. All her old recipes and videos can be found on her YouTube and Instagram.

Cooking with Grace gives students the opportunity for a chance to win a home cooked meal every Sunday on her Instagram, @gracebarden.

Where you sit in the caf

And what it says about you

BY HEATHER GAST
Campus News Editor

Main corridor (a) — You aren’t afraid of awkwardly spotting someone from your Manresa group across the room. Heck, you might even strike up conversation yourself. ROTC, the swim team and RAs thrive in this area.

Island high top tables (b) — You are popular, in a hurry or Father B. Maybe all three.

Tables and booths on the carpet (c) — Small, introverted friend groups or folks studying from the comfort of the cushions. People who sit here either stare at their phones or stare out the window.

“Last Supper” tables (d) — Simple, you’re either a friend group of first-years who still manage to find time they’re all free, or you’re the track/cross-country team.

Peninsula tables (e) — Core friend groups. These tables are big enough to accommodate all the folks who still have meal plans (or that you slid your ALL Card to) but only those who have weathered the storm of friend drama.

“Sitcom” booths (f) — Friends who value

comfort but don’t mind shuffling around whenever someone needs to get another plate of mac and cheese. Also for folks who need an outlet to study.

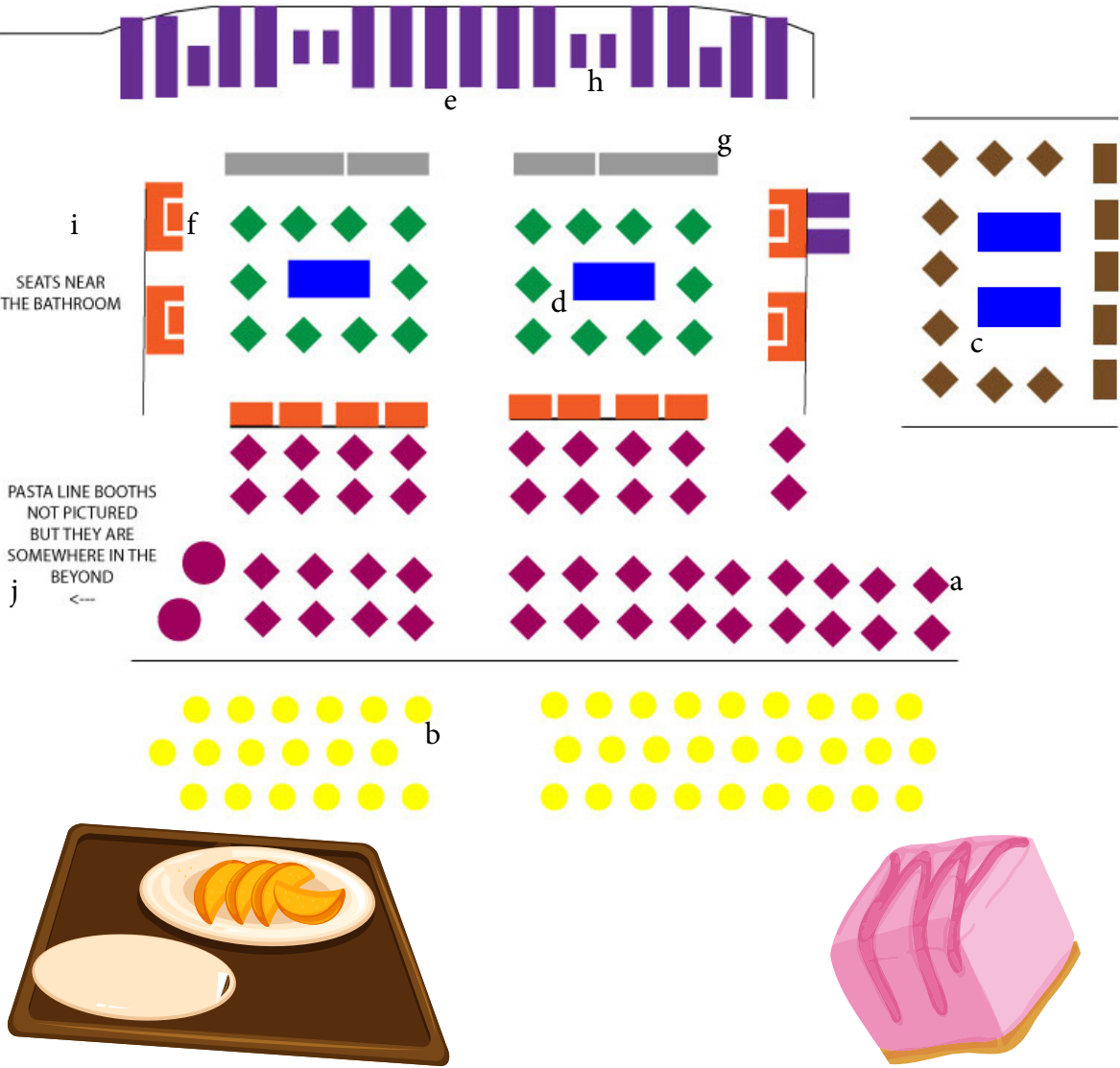
High tops (g) — Either you’re an awkwardly small group, or you take up almost every seat. No one ever fills all eight seats perfectly. You are right below a speaker, so someone will sing along to the caf playlist.

Single tables (h) — You might be on an ironic date. You’re self-conscious enough that you don’t want to take up more seats than you need but not so self-conscious that you won’t sit where it is obvious that you’re alone.

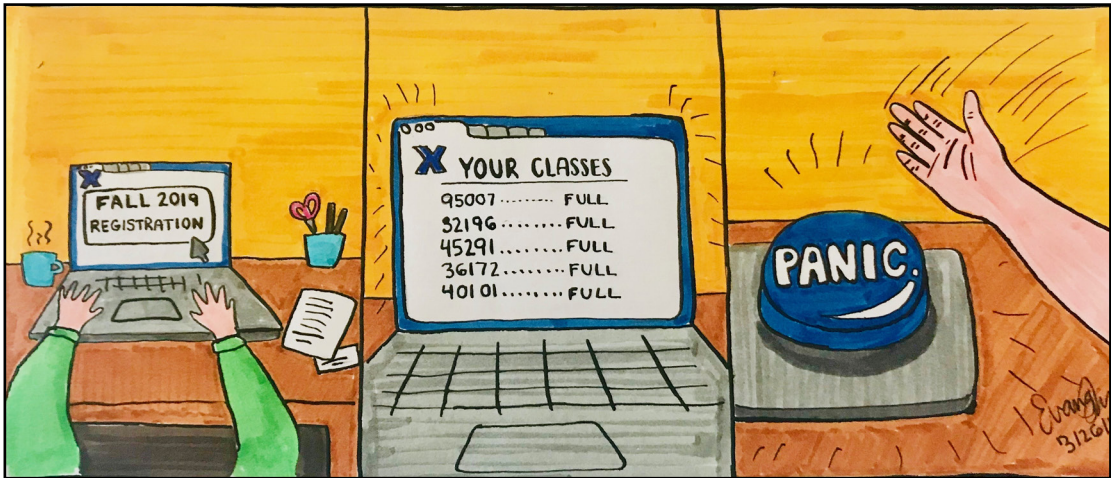
By bathroom (i) — You enjoy seclusion, or you want to kick back with the caf workers.

Booths by the pasta line (j) — You are oblivious or reckless. Do you realize that if a tour started ransacking the caf you would be trapped or have to fight your way out? If you stick around during pasta rush hour, your mental fortitude is beyond my comprehension. You may identify with Hobbits, moles and other creatures that live in cozy nooks.

Graphic by Bridget Walsh



COMIC CORNER



With Evana Dias

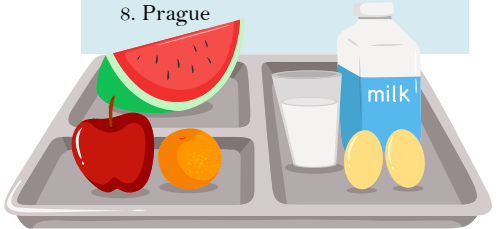


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H B O H I C F M A N R E S A J

Island	Storm	Manresa
Carpet	Honey	Friends
Cafeteria	Pizza	Pasta
Sitcom	Treat	Rush

March 20 crossword puzzle answer key:

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Across: | Down: |
| 2. Gloss | 1. Toothpaste |
| 3. Oprah | 4. Twitter |
| 6. Free | 5. Aries |
| 7. Time | |
| 8. Prague | |



Aries: Don’t depend on luck to come your way this week, but appreciate it if it does. Like when a class you didn’t do the homework for gets cancelled.

Taurus: You may notice you have a social groove going on this week. You’ll be like that Vine girl who sings, “Country boy, I love youuuu, ahhhwwelwh...” except it’ll actually sound good.

Gemini: Your professional life must be guzzling down Monster Energy drinks or chugging coffee or something, because it’s on a wild ride. Make sure it doesn’t crash like a NASA rocket.

Cancer: Who cares about what’s realistic? Eating two whole Pizza ATM pizzas may not sound realistic, but if you’re hungry and it’s 3 a.m., why let society dictate what you do?

Leo: If anyone thinks they can mess with your vibe this week, just quote the old lady from this one Vine: “Honey, you got a big storm comin’.” And then do that step n’ snap she did.

Virgo: A pen? A pencil? Some gum? A paper? Whatever a classmate forgot and happens to need, you got it. Rock it, pop it and lock it like the boss you are.

Libra: Treat. Yo. Self. This. Week. You need it and the stars know you need it, and if you don’t think you need it, you’re wrong.

Scorpio: Your previous weeks may have consisted of constant internal screaming. That may not necessarily change this week either, but at least dress up and try to look cute.

Sagittarius: You better take care of business while you’ve still got the motivation, ‘cause at some point this week you may crash and burn and dissolve into the void where no one can find you.

Capricorn: The end of the semester is approaching fast. Help a squirrel find the nuts it’s buried or trick birds into thinking you’re a mate with your sharp whistling skills.

Aquarius: You may have no fear this week. You’re practically the toddler from this one Vine who has a nerf gun pointed at his face, looks at the camera and goes, “Shoot me.”

Pisces: It’s time to crawl out of that deep pit that is procrastination and inactivity. It’s painful and probably makes you want to wish Easter break is here already, but it’s sadly necessary.

